

the EAC. That's an amazing statement in light of the fact that the EAC has been sued for political discrimination—the very agency that's supposed to take care of fairness and do things in these issues gets sued for political discrimination. So that is hardly an argument to say that it can't be transferred.

We are looking at transferring the essential functions of the EAC over to the FEC with the personnel and funding that's necessary to do that job. It's a very responsible and adult thing to do to take care not only of spending issues, but we have an agency that is spending 51.7 percent of its budget on administration and management, not in program administration, not in taking care of grants, those have come and gone. So here we are in that situation of an agency that needs to be eliminated.

And I want to make it clear that in no way, by eliminating the EAC, are we doing anything to repeal or have any intent to do away with HAVA. That is something that came about in a bipartisan effort, and it will remain and shall remain as we move forward. But the EAC was created and funded for a 3-year period. Nine years later, we have one of the most inefficient agencies that we will probably ever see. It is beyond tweaking and correcting to do that.

I want to say that we all believe it is essential in our country that everyone has a right to vote and has access to vote and that no one be disenfranchised. In no way does that have any impact in a negative way. In fact, it will make the election process more efficient to do away with an agency like this. It is a Federal agency that has long outlived its usefulness. And if we look at the people that are on the ground in the States, the Secretaries of State in each of our States, that NASS would pass a resolution, not once, but twice, that this agency needs to be done away with—we need to follow that great advice of those that are most intimately familiar with what's going on.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 672 eliminates wasteful spending in a responsible way. In particular, H.R. 672 would transfer the Election Assistance Commission's Office of Voting System Testing and Certification to the Federal Election Commission, while maintaining the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) current role in the accreditation of laboratories to test voting equipment. The bill continues the formal mechanisms for input into the development of Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVGs) by maintaining the current Technical Guidelines Development Committee (which NIST, chairs), and replaces several committees with a streamlined 56-member Guidelines Review Board composed of state and local election officials and other key constituencies including federal representatives.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is the Committee of jurisdiction

over the scientific and technological aspects of voting reform including research, development, and testing of voting machine standards. These responsibilities have been assigned by the Help America Votes Act (HAVA) of 2002 to NIST. Within HAVA, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee created provisions to ensure that proper technical standards would be developed to improve voting technology and that a reliable system would be set up to test equipment against those standards. These activities allow states and localities to participate in the standards development process and to trust the systems they choose to invest in. Both are preserved in the legislation we are considering today.

I thank Representative GREGG HARPER (R-MS) and his staff for recognizing the importance of maintaining a pathway for the development of voting standards and ensuring the quality of voting equipment in H.R. 672.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 672.

Today our national debt is 14.344 trillion dollars. Any time we have the opportunity to save taxpayers \$33 million over five years, while improving the efficiency of our federal government, we should take it.

Those against this bill have said that elections officials from across the country have called for the agency to be protected. Well, I happen to have been a Secretary of State for the State of Colorado, and I am calling for this Agency to be eliminated. In fact, the National Association of Secretaries of State has passed two resolutions calling for the EAC's termination.

The EAC's election research function is obsolete. It has completed 4 of the 5 federally mandated election studies, and the one outstanding study is six years overdue and mired in interagency controversy.

The agency spends over 50% of its budget on administrative costs. EAC's budget request for 2012 is for 5.4 million dollars to manage programs totaling 3.4 million dollars.

The EAC does not register voters, nor does it have any enforcement authority over laws governing voter registration.

This bill will transfer the EAC's remaining valuable service, its voting system testing and certification program, to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), which is better equipped to perform these functions more efficiently.

It is time to, as this bill does, terminate the EAC promptly and responsibly.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 672, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 2000

THE WAY IT IS ON AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN LIBYA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the war in Libya continues. It is the third war the United States is in. In my opinion, this war is unconstitutional because Congress has not approved it. It also violates the War Powers Resolution, because even after the time limit has expired, the President still engages troops overseas without congressional authority. And this war is not in the national security interests of the United States. Administration officials say so.

This is a war that is sponsored by NATO. It is said we need to help NATO out. Well, if NATO wants to continue this war, let them. The United States is footing this bill, and it has cost us \$750 million already.

The President says Muammar Qadhafi is a bad guy and he has got to go. We don't know what is going to replace him. We may have an oppressive regime replaced by an extremist radicalized regime. Who knows? But this war is not in the interests of the United States, and it is now Congress' responsibility to cut off the funds for this war, because this war violates the United States Constitution and it is not in the security interests of the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

MARINE SGT. JEREMY E. MURRAY POST OFFICE

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Sergeant Jeremy Murray.

Today on this House floor we renamed the Post Office in Rootstown, Portage County, Ohio, where Jeremy grew up. He served our country during several tours to the Middle East, and at 28 years old he lost his life.

His mother has worked at this post office for 11 years, so it was a special day today for us to, in a very small way here in the House of Representatives, say "thank you" to him for his service and to thank his parents, Pam and Harold, for raising such a great young kid who would be willing to go off to war because his country asked him and serve us in such a noble way.

So, today I rise to say thank you to Jeremy, thank you to his parents, thank you to Rootstown, and thank you to Waterloo High School that instilled in him these values, a terrific young man whom we honor here today and we honor with this post office.

STANDING BEHIND NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS AFTER DEVASTATING FLOODS

(Mr. BERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, today the residents of Minot, North Dakota, and the surrounding communities are preparing for a devastating flood that is going to impact their cities. The water levels in the Souris River have never reached the levels that they will reach in the next 24 to 48 hours. Many parts of the city and the surrounding rural areas will be inundated with water as water levels rise above the current levies. More than 10,000 residents have already been evacuated.

In North Dakota, we pull together in challenging times and we support our friends and our communities. The city and people around Minot need to know that, when the water recedes, we will be there to help. We will be there to clean up, and we will be there to rebuild.

I ask everyone to please join me in keeping these residents who are fighting for their homes and their communities in your thoughts and prayers and to stand with Minot and other communities up and down the Souris River to ensure a strong recovery.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN ON JOB GROWTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I stand with my fellow Republican women on the House floor tonight. We stand before you from every corner of America, as businesswomen, nurses, physicians, farmers, mothers, educators, and attorneys to tell you the story of the Republican woman.

While our backgrounds and professions may be different, one thing is not: We are all conservative reformers committed to leaving America better for our children and grandchildren. After all, women in this country know better than anyone the effects of harmful economic policies. Why? Because two out of three businesses are started by women. Women-owned business are the fastest growing segment in the United States economy and they generate over \$2.5 trillion in revenue a year. Women manage 83 percent of household income, spend two out of three health care dollars, and make up the majority of health care providers in America.

Women are at the center of this debate, and the House Republican women are committed to leading it. But at a time when our country has accumulated over \$14 trillion in debt and faced 28 consecutive months of unemploy-

ment above 8 percent, we know this is not an easy task. Yet despite the obstacles and the opposition, House Republican women are committed to fighting this fight, to creating jobs, to making America what she once was—the land of opportunity, innovation, and ingenuity. And that is why we are all here. That is why we ran for Congress and why we stand in the Halls of Congress; some of us for many years, others are brand new, all of us bound by the commitment to real reform.

We have seen the numbers. Eighty-one percent of Americans know someone without a job; the average unemployed American has been searching for over 38 weeks; and since President Obama took office, we have lost over 2 million jobs in this country. We refuse to sit here and watch those numbers rise.

As eastern Washington's Representative, I ran for Congress 7 years ago to help keep that American Dream alive. I spent 13 years working beside my mom and dad and brother in our family-owned business in Kettle Falls, Washington. I was the first in my family to graduate from college, and I later had the honor of serving as State Representative, while continuing to work in our family business and learning firsthand the value of hard work, the value of opportunity. From the fruit stand in Kettle Falls to the Halls of Congress, I am here years later because I refused to let that opportunity be threatened.

I come home every night to two beautiful children, Cole and Grace, and I want them to have the opportunities that I have had. I want them not only to know the American Dream and what it is, but I want them to have the opportunity to live it.

America stands at a crossroads like never before in our Nation's history. Last year at this time the administration was talking about a recovery summer. This year we should be talking about a reality summer. The reality is clear and it is unprecedented. I was just home in Spokane, where unemployment is over 9 percent and there is one thing on the forefront of everyone's minds—jobs.

So, tonight we Republican women are here to remind the American people that creating jobs is our number one priority. Our GOP plan for job creators will empower small businesses, fix the Tax Code, encourage entrepreneurs, increase competitiveness, and pay down America's national debt. We will stand on this House floor, debate in committee hearings, work with our colleagues across the aisle, and continue to listen to those at home until we get Americans back to work. And we will. We are on the road to economic recovery, and the House Republican women are committed to ensuring that we get there.

With that, it is with great pleasure that I would like to yield to the dynamic woman from North Carolina.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Thank you so much to my colleague from Washington, and

thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us tonight to come as Republican women to speak out to the American people.

I came to Washington as one of the new freshmen here, and I am very honored to be part of this group. We are a group of women who believe in our country. We believe in the right of every American to achieve. There are no guarantees, but if you put your mind to it and you work hard, everyone can achieve.

I, too, came from a family that was not wealthy. My parents did not really see the value in a college education. I am a second generation American here in the United States, and I am first generation college educated. I basically put myself through college and nursing school with many different jobs. I became a nurse, and I have been a nurse for over 21 years and am very happy to be so. I am a wife and a mom. My son, Ben, is 16 years old.

When health care became such a huge issue in this country and when our President spoke about changing it, the best health care system in the world, I knew that that was not only going to be detrimental to health care but also the economy, because it is such a large portion of our economy. So I put myself forward to run for office, because I believed that if you are going to change things in Washington, you have to change Washington itself. So here I am, proud to be serving with these great women.

We have many, many issues in this country right now that we are faced with, and we need jobs. Unemployment has been above 9 percent for over 23 months now. Yes, our colleagues across the aisle put forward their plan over a year ago. That plan has failed, and it is time for a new plan.

As a woman, being a multitasker, Mr. Speaker, as you know how wonderful women are, we can put our minds to it and we can solve these problems.

□ 2010

Speaking as a nurse, I've always taken care of many patients, but none more dear to me than my seniors. And what they are faced with today because of the destruction that has been put forward by our Democrat colleagues across the aisle in ObamaCare, it has truly done just that—destroyed it. And it is our job to rescue it back for the American people so that it will be there for our seniors and it will be there for generations to come.

As it is right now, \$500 billion has been taken out, and a 15-person panel will be put in place to decide what kind of health care you receive. That right will be taken away from you and your physician. Imagine a group of individuals without any health care background whatsoever deciding for you whether or not you'll be able to have surgery or whether or not you'll be able to have a treatment. Imagine trying to explain that to your family. Imagine sitting at the bedside of your